

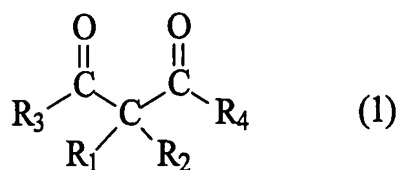
IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 3 and 7 have been amended and claims 8-14 have been added as follows:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original): A photoinitiator consisting essentially of a compound having a molecular weight of 1000 or less, and having a chemical structure represented by formula (1),

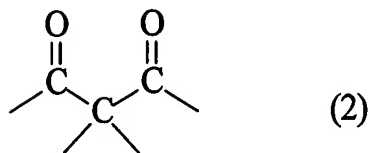


wherein R₃ and R₄ independently denote an alkyl group having a carbon number of 1 to 8,
and

R₁ and R₂ independently denote

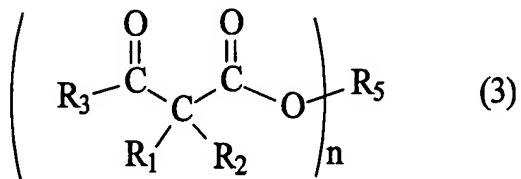
- 1) an electron attracting group,
- 2) an alkyl group having a carbon number of 1 to 8, or
- 3) an alkyl group having a carbon number of 1 to 8, which has an electron attracting group at the β, γ, or δ position with respect to both of the carbonyl groups, wherein the alkyl group 2) is methyl or ethyl group when each of the two substituents is the alkyl group 2), and

weight percentage of a chemical structure element represented by the following formula (2),



which is expressed in formula (1), based on the total molecular weight of the compound, is within the range of 17% to 54% by mass.

Claim 2 (original): A photoinitiator consisting essentially of a compound having a molecular weight of 1000 or less, and having a chemical structure represented by the following formula (3),



wherein

R₃ denotes an alkyl group having a carbon number of 1 to 8,

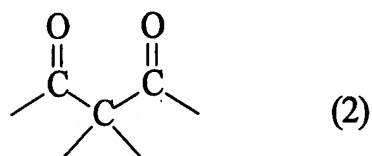
R₅ denotes a mono-, di-, tri-, tetra- or pentavalent aliphatic hydrocarbon group, or an alkyleneoxy group containing aliphatic hydrocarbon group,

n is a natural number of 1 to 5, and

R₁ and R₂ independently denote

- 1) an electron attracting group,
- 2) an alkyl group having a carbon number of 1 to 8, or
- 3) an alkyl group having a carbon number of 1 to 8, which has an electron attracting group at the β , γ , or δ position with respect to both of the carbonyl groups, wherein the alkyl group 2) is methyl or ethyl group when each of the two substituents is the alkyl group 2), and

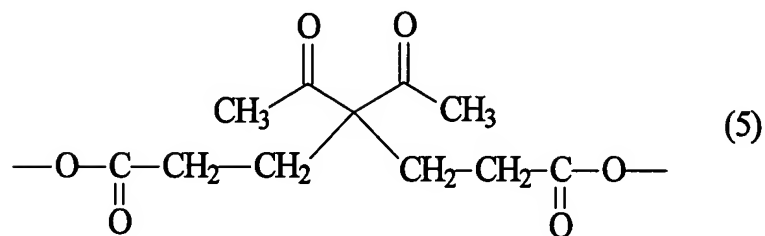
weight percentage of a chemical structure element represented by the following formula (2),



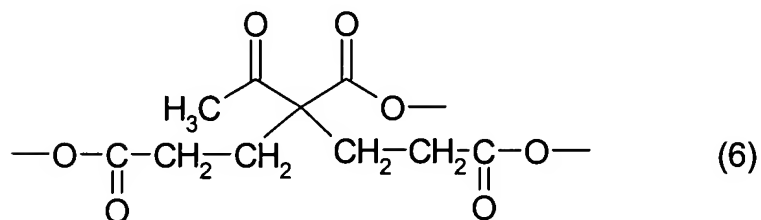
which is expressed in formula (3), based on the total molecular weight of the compound, is within the range of 17% to 47% by mass.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A photoinitiator according to claim 1 [[or 2]], wherein the R_1 and R_2 are identical.

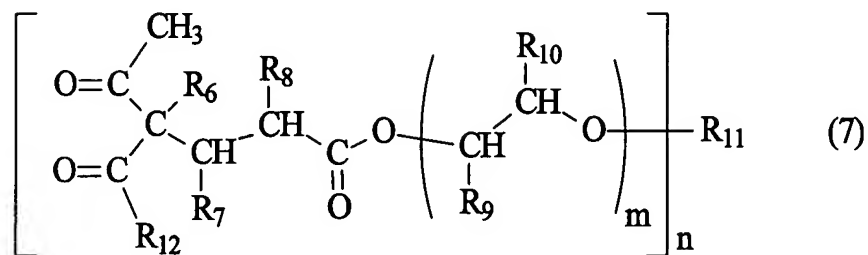
Claim 4 (original): A photoinitiator according to claim 1, wherein the compound has at least one chemical structure element represented by the following formula (5).



Claim 5 (original): A photoinitiator according to claim 2, wherein the compound has at least one chemical structure element represented by the following formula (6).



Claim 6 (original): A novel compound having a chemical structure represented by the following formula (7),



wherein

R₆ denotes an alkyl group having a carbon number of 1 to 8, a C₁₋₄ alkyl carbonyl group, a cyano group, a C₁₋₄ alkyl carbonyl methyl group, a C₁₋₄ alkyl carbonyl ethyl group, a C₁₋₄ alkoxy carbonyl methyl group, a C₁₋₄ alkoxy carbonyl ethyl group, and an alkyl group having a carbon number of 1 to 8 which is substituted by carboxyl group or cyano group,

R₇, R₈, R₉, and R₁₀ independently denote a hydrogen atom, or a methyl group, and at least one of R₉ and R₁₀ is a hydrogen atom,

R₁₁ denotes a di-, tri- or tetra-valent aliphatic hydrocarbon group having a carbon number of 2 to 12,

R₁₂ denotes a methyl group, or an alkoxy group having a carbon number of 1 to 18,

n is a natural number of 2 to 4, and

m is an integer of 0 to 15.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A photocurable composition comprising,

- (i) a photoinitiator according to the claim 1 [[to 7]], and
- (ii) a radical curable ethylenic unsaturated compound.

Claim 8 (new): A photoinitiator according to claim 2, wherein the R_1 and R_2 are identical.

Claim 9 (new): A photocurable composition comprising,

- (i) a photoinitiator according to the claim 2, and
- (ii) a radical curable ethylenic unsaturated compound.

Claim 10 (new): A photocurable composition comprising,

- (i) a photoinitiator according to the claim 3, and
- (ii) a radical curable ethylenic unsaturated compound.

Claim 11 (new): A photocurable composition comprising,

- (i) a photoinitiator according to the claim 4, and
- (ii) a radical curable ethylenic unsaturated compound.

Claim 12 (new): A photocurable composition comprising,

- (i) a photoinitiator according to the claim 5, and
- (ii) a radical curable ethylenic unsaturated compound.

Claim 13 (new): A photocurable composition comprising,

- (i) a photoinitiator according to the claim 6, and
- (ii) a radical curable ethylenic unsaturated compound.

Claim 14 (new): A photocurable composition comprising,

- (i) a photoinitiator according to the claim 8, and
- (ii) a radical curable ethylenic unsaturated compound.